Amendments to the Specification:

Please add the following new paragraph on Page 1, above line 1:

--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

Applicant claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 of German Application No. 102 39 631.0 filed August 23, 2002. Applicant also claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §365 of PCT/EP2003/008030 filed July 23, 2003. The international application under PCT article 21(2) was not published in English.--

On Page 3, before the first full paragraph, please insert the following paragraphs:

--A fire-retardant coating that foams under the effect of heat, which is composed of 40 to 85 wt. % silicate solution, 5 to 40 wt. % frit material, i.e., glass-like, grainy powder, and 1 to 15 wt. % of a propellant that expands under the effect of heat, is known from EP 0 816 443 A2. The coating may additionally contain further component such as fillers, defoamers, softeners, thickeners, pigments, and viscosity stabilizers.

EP 0 931 778 A1 discloses a fireproof molded body, which is particularly intended for combustion chamber floors of heating boilers and comprises a body made of vermiculite particles compressed with binders resistant to high temperatures. The vermiculite particles are contained in the overall body in a magnitude of 20 to 30 wt. %, together with ceramic hollow spheres as Extendospheres in a magnitude of 40 to 50 wt. %, the remainder comprising binders resistant to high temperatures, such as a potassium water glass binder. All three components are provided in the body in homogeneous distribution.--

On Page 3, please replace the first full paragraph, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The present invention is based on the object of providing an insulation component of the type cited at the beginning, which has ~~a high refractoriness and good insulation effect as well as favorable manufacturing costs in relation to conventional insulation components~~ good acoustic insulation effect and simultaneously a high refractoriness, and is sufficiently flexible for mounting in motor vehicles in spite of its fire-retardant coating.--

On Page 3, after the second full paragraph, please insert the following paragraph:

--The insulation component according to the present invention is distinguished by especially high thermal resistance with high thermal and acoustic insulation effect. These properties may be implemented with relatively favorable manufacturing costs. In addition to the adhesive ability upon thermal treatment, the thermoplastic powder adhesive also causes the fire-retardant coating to be more flexible.--

On Pages 3-4, please delete the paragraph bridging pages 3 and 4.

On Page 4, please delete the first full paragraph.

On Page 5, please delete the first full paragraph.

On Pages 6-7, please replace the paragraph bridging pages 6 and 7 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The propellant used in the fire-retardant coating of the insulation component is ~~preferably~~ made of hollow polymer plastic

particles, which have a gas-tight covering that is insoluble in water, in which liquid and/or gaseous hydrocarbon is encapsulated. The polymer plastic particles preferably have a grain size in the range from 2 to 50 µm. The polymer plastic of the gas-tight covering and the hydrocarbon encapsulated therein are preferably selected so that the hollow polymer plastic particles begin to expand under the effect of heat from a temperature of greater than 100°C and burst from a temperature of greater than 130°C, the encapsulated hydrocarbon being released as propellant gas.--

On Pages 12-13, please replace the paragraph bridging pages 12 and 13 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The propellant contained in the fire-retardant coating 3, 5, 6 ~~preferably~~ consists of small, hollow plastic particles which have a gas-tight covering, insoluble in water, made of a mixed polymer in which liquid and/or gaseous hydrocarbon is encapsulated. The hollow plastic particles have a grain diameter in the range from approximately 2 to 50 µm, preferably in the range from approximately 10 to 20 µm. If the hollow plastic particles are heated by the effect of heat and/or fire, the liquid hydrocarbon enters the gas phase. The pressure of the

gaseous hydrocarbon increases with rising temperature. The gas-tight covering simultaneously softens, so that the volume of the hollow plastic particles increases manyfold. The volume increase may, for example, be 30 to 50 times the original volume. The material of the gas-tight covering and the hydrocarbon enclosed therein are selected so that the volume increase (expansion) is triggered in the event of thermal influence from a specific temperature range. The triggering temperature is preferably at a temperature of greater than 100°C.--